

Message Text

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TAGS: EIND, ETRD, EGEN, BEXP, KS

SUBJECT: ASST. SEC. OF COMMERCE DOBBIN MEETING WITH
ASST. MIN. PARK PIL SOO, MCI

REF: SEOUL 532

1. DURING ASST. SEC. DOBBIN'S MEETING WITH PARK PIL SOO, ASST. MINISTER FOR COMMERCE, MCI, PARK BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF SEVENTH MINISTERIAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN SEOUL. ASST. SEC. DOBBIN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY KRAUSE, LAKAS, GLEASON, AND FROM THE POST, MAYFIELD. A MID-APRIL DATE FOR THIS MEETING WAS SUGGESTED BY PARK BUT WAS IMMEDIATELY ELIMINATED AS MUCH TOO EARLY. A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE LATER DATE WILL BE WORKED OUT THROUGH THE KOREAN EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT.

2. MCI WISHES TO HOLD THE MEETING TO TWO DAYS' DURATION AND THIS WAS HAPPILY AGREED TO BY ASST. SEC. DOBBIN.

3. A FEW OF THE AGENDA ITEMS SUGGESTED BY PARK INCLUDE (1) DISCUSSION OF TRADE ACT; (2) FOOTWEAR AND NEW ARRANGEMENTS PLANNED BY THE ROKG; (3) STAINLESS TABLEWARE; (4) EVALUATION OF EXIM FINANCING, INCLUDING CFF; AND (5) SHIPPING SURCHARGE AT INCHON (SEE REFTEL).

4. ALTHOUGH NOT PREVIOUSLY ADVISED THAT MINISTERIAL MEETING WOULD BE BROUGHT UP, ASST SEC SUGGESTED THAT SOME OF THE
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TOPICS WE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WOULD BE (1) STATUS OF

U.S. BANKS IN KOREA; (2) RELAXATION OF RESTRICTIONS ON U.S. INSURANCE COMPANIES; (3) MOTION PICTURE QUOTA; (4) COPYRIGHTS, PATENTS, TRADEMARKS; (5) FURTHER LIBERALIZATION OF ROKG IMPORT RESTRICTIONS; AND (6) KOREA'S FOREIGN INVESTMENT CLIMATE.

5. ASST. SEC. DOBBIN RESPONDED TO THE QUESTION OF THE SHIPPING SURCHARGE AT INCHON BY ASSURING PARK THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH HELEN BENTLEY AND PERHAPS PREVAIL UPON HER TO VISIT KOREA IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

6. ASST. SEC. DOBBIN BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF THE HONORING OF CONTRACTS BY KOREAN BUYERS REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO NON-FERROUS METALS. QUESTION OF HONORING COTTON CONTRACTS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED EARLIER AT EPB WITH VICE MINISTER CHOI AND AGAIN WITH MCI MINISTER CHANG.) PARK REPLIED THAT HIS OFFICE WAS PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING TO PRESS FOR SETTLEMENT OF SUCH CONTRACTS, PARTICULARLY ON BEHALF OF WESTERN DIVERSIFIED METALS WITH KOREAN BUYERS. THE PRESENT STATUS IS CONSIDERED A STALEMATE AND POST WILL BE DISCUSSING AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

7. ALSO TO BE INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA WILL BE A ROKG RECOMMENDATION FOR A LARGER U.S. TRADE CENTER WHICH WILL HAVE CAPABILITY OF BRINGING IN MORE FIRMS WITH OPERABLE DISPLAY EQUIPMENT. ASST. SEC. DOBBIN INFORMED PARK THAT THIS IS NOW UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION AND PRELIMINARY PLANS HAD ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR.

8. OF ALL MEETINGS ARRANGED FOR ASST. SEC. DOBBIN, THIS PROVED TO BE THE MOST SUBSTANTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE. EMBASSY REQUESTS IT BE KEPT FULLY INFORMED ON PROGRESS OF SETTING DATE FOR SEVENTH MINISTERIAL MEETING.
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